GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3716
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2005
BAN ON KHESARI PULSES
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has submitted any proposal to the Union Government for lifting ban on khesari (lakhodi) pulse;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the reasons for imposing ban on khesari in spite of it having no ill effect;

(d) whether any time-limit has been fixed by the Government for lifting ban on khesari; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a)&(b): The Government of Maharashtra had sent a proposal for withdrawing the ban for sale of Khesari Dal in Maharashtra. However, since, no new facts/conclusive evidence that Khesari Dal is not harmful was provided by the Government of Maharashtra, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare did not concur with the proposal for revoking the `ban on sale`, notified by the Government of Maharashtra, presently in vogue under Rule 44-A, of the PFA Rules, 1955.

(c): The sale of Khesari Dal has been prohibited under the provisions of Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954, as its consumption is associated with the disease `Lathyrism` causing associated with the disease `Lathyrism` causing crippling paralysis due to presence of toxin (BOAA) content in Khesari Dal.

The High Powered Committee on Khesari Dal, constituted by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture on Khesari Dal under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education-cum-DG, ICAR, with the approval of Agriculture Minister, has examined the matter in depth and has recommended as follows:

1. It was evident that continued consumption of Khesari (Lathyrus Sativus) which contains B-N-Oxalyl Amino Alanine (BOAA), causes lathyrism.

2. The High Power Committee has also recommended that the threshold levels are yet to be precisely established to determine in specific quantitative terms about the use of Khesari, hence, it is essential to undertake further researches and data generation towards achieving this end.

The Report of the High Power Committee on Khesari Dal has been unanimously adopted by the Standing Committee on Agriculture, in its sitting held on 08.11.2001.

(d)&(e): Do not arise.